

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 7th March 1896.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

| No. | Names of Newspapers. | Place of publication. | Reported number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. | REMARKS. |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------|
| BENGALI. | | | | | |
| <i>Tri-monthly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Abodh Bodhini" ... | Calcutta | About 677 | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Banganivasi" ... | Ditto | 5,000 | 1st March 1896. | |
| 2 | "Bangavasi" ... | Ditto | 20,000 | 29th February 1896. | |
| 3 | "Baniya Darpan" ... | Ditto | ..... |  |  |
| 4 | "Hitaishi" ... | Ditto | 800 | 3rd March 1896. | |
| 5 | "Hitavadi" ... | Ditto | About 4,000 | 28th February 1896. | |
| 6 | "Kumari Patrika" ... | Ditto | ..... |  |  |
| 7 | "Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ... | Ditto | 2,500 | 29th ditto. | |
| 8 | "Sahachar" ... | Ditto | About 500 | 26th ditto. | |
| 9 | "Samay" ... | Ditto | 3,000 | 28th ditto. | |
| 10 | "Sanjivani" ... | Ditto | 3,000 | 29th ditto. | |
| 11 | "Som Prakash" ... | Ditto | 800 | 2nd March 1896. | |
| <i>Daily.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Banga Vidya Prakashika" ... | Ditto | 350 | | |
| 2 | "Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika." | Ditto | 1,000 | 27th February and 1st to 4th March 1896. | |
| 3 | "Samvad Prabhakar" ... | Ditto | 1,250 | 28th February and 2nd and 3rd March 1896. | |
| 4 | "Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ... | Ditto | 200 | | |
| 5 | "Sulabh Dainik" ... | Ditto | Read by 3,000 | 2nd to 4th March 1896. | |
| HINDI. | | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Bharat Mitra" ... | Ditto | 2,000 | 27th February 1896. | |
| 2 | "Hindi Bangavasi" ... | Ditto | 10,000 | 2nd March 1896. | |
| 3 | "Uchit Vakta" ... | Ditto | ..... |  |  |
| <i>Daily.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Dainik Bharat Mitra" ... | Ditto | 5,000 | 28th and 3rd March 1896. | |
| PERSIAN. | | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Hublul Mateen" ... | Calcutta | ..... | 26th February 1896. | |
| URDU. | | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." | Ditto | 310 | 27th February 1896. | |
| 2 | "General and Gauharisfi" | Ditto | 330 | 23rd ditto. | |
| BENGALI. | | | | | |
| BURDWAN DIVISION. | | | | | |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Bankura Darpan" ... | Bankura | 450 | 1st March 1896. | |
| 2 | "Ulubaria Darpan" ... | Ulubaria | 700 | 25th February 1896. | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Burdwan Sanjivani" ... | Burdwan | About 250 | 25th ditto. | |
| 2 | "Chinsura Vartavaha" ... | Chinsura | 550 | 1st March 1896. | |
| 3 | "Darsak" ... | Ditto | ..... |  |  |
| 4 | "Education Gazette" ... | Hooghly | 1,145 | 28th February 1896. | |

| No. | Names of Newspapers. | Place of publication. | Reported number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. | REMARKS. |
|-----|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| | BENGALI. | | | | |
| | <i>Monthly.</i> | PRESIDENCY DIVISION. | | | |
| 1 | "Ghosak" ... | Khulna ... | 350 | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Murshidabad Hitaishi" ... | Murshidabad ... | 826 | 26th February 1896. | |
| 2 | "Murshidabad Pratidin" ... | Berhampore ... | 200 | | |
| 3 | "Pratikar" ... | Ditto ... | 603 | 28th ditto. | |
| | URIYA. | | | | |
| | <i>Monthly.</i> | ORISSA DIVISION. | | | |
| 1 | "Brahma" ... | Cuttack ... | 160 | | |
| 2 | "Indradhanu" ... | Ditto ... | ..... |  |  |
| 3 | "Shikshabandhu" ... | Ditto ... | ..... |  |  |
| 4 | "Utkalprabha" ... | Mayurbhunj ... | ..... | ..... | Only six copies have been issued since the paper was received in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered. |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Sambalpur Hitaishini" ... | Bamra in the Central Provinces. ... | ..... | 15th January 1896 ... | This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained. |
| 2 | "Samvad Vahika" ... | Balasore ... | 190 | 30th ditto. | |
| 3 | "Uriya and Navasamvad" ... | Ditto ... | 309 | 29th ditto. | |
| 4 | "Utkal Dipika" ... | Cuttack ... | 480 | 1st February 1896. | |
| | HINDI. | | | | |
| | <i>Monthly.</i> | PATNA DIVISION. | | | |
| 1 | "Bihar Bandhu" ... | Bankipur ... | 500 | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Aryavarta" ... | Dinapur ... | 1,000 | | |
| | URDU. | | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ... | Bankipur ... | 500 | 20th February 1896. | |
| 2 | "Gaya Punch" ... | Gaya ... | 400 | | |
| | BENGALI. | | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | RAJSHAHI DIVISION. | | | |
| 1 | "Bagura Darpan" ... | Bogra ... | ..... |  |  |
| 2 | "Hindu Ranjika" ... | Boalia, Rajshahi ... | 195 | 26th February 1896. | |
| 3 | "Rangpur Dikprakash" ... | Kakina, Rangpur ... | 180 | | |
| | HINDI. | | | | |
| | <i>Monthly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." ... | Darjeeling ... | 500 | | It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy. |
| | BENGALI. | | | | |
| | <i>Fortnightly.</i> | DACCA DIVISION. | | | |
| 1 | "Kasipur Nivasi" ... | Kasipur, Barisal ... | 244 | 11th and 26th February 1896. | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Charu Mihir" ... | Mymensingh ... | 800 | 25th February 1896. | |
| 2 | "Dacca Prakash" ... | Dacca ... | 2,400 | 1st March 1896. | |
| 3 | "Saraswat Patra" ... | Do. ... | About 400 | 29th February 1896. | |
| 4 | "Vikrampur" ... | Lauhajanga, Dacca ... | 240 | 27th ditto. | |

| No. | Names of Newspapers. | Place of publication. | Reported number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. | REMARKS. |
|-----|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------|
| | ENGLISH AND BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Dacca Gazette" ... BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i> | Dacca ... CHITTAGONG DIVISION. | 500 | 24th February and 2nd March 1896. | |
| 1 | "Tripura Prakash" ... <i>Weekly.</i> | Comilla ... | 700 | 2nd fortnight, Magh, 1302 B. S. | |
| 1 | "Sansodhini" ... BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i> | Chittagong ... ASSAM. | 120 | | |
| 1 | "Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi" | Sylhet ... | ..... | 1st fortnight, Falgun, 1302 B.B. | |

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Dainik Bharat Mitra* of the 28th February says that the offensive and defensive alliance, which is reported to have been formed between Turkey and Russia, must have been hastened by a revival of the Egyptian evacuation question. This time Russia and her ally, France, will back the Sultan in his protest against the British occupation of Egypt.

2. Referring to the despatch of a regiment of native Indian soldiers to East Africa to put down a disturbance there, the *Sanjivani* of the 29th February wants to know who will have to bear the expense of this expedition—the Indian people, the English colonies in East Africa, or the people of England? India has more than once been compelled to pay the cost of expeditions sent to foreign countries. But why this injustice? What interest has India in the establishment of a British Empire in East Africa? Moreover, why should native Indian soldiers be sent to Africa while there are British soldiers, enough and to spare, both in India and in England? If you say that Indian soldiers are more warlike, brave and hardy, why not place them on an equal footing with British soldiers in respect of pay and promotion?

DAINIK BHARAT
MITRA,
Feb. 28th, 1896.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 29th, 1896.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 25th February says that a large herd of wild boars are doing great injury to crops in Hijalna and the adjoining villages in the Jahanabad subdivision of the Hooghly district. They have also killed one man and injured many. The authorities should take immediate steps to rid the villages of these pests.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 25th, 1896.

4. The *Ulubaria Darpan* of the 26th February complains that the last artillery practice in Falta, on the 1st February last, caused the death of a man and a cow. It has hitherto been the practice with the police to warn people living within the artillery range, and prevent them from coming within it. But this year the police failed to do so, and they say in explanation that they had warned the people, but their warning was not heeded, and that they did not use force simply because that might have led to a breach of the public peace. Such excuses were not, however, heard in other years. It is to be expected that the police will act better in future.

ULUBARIA DARPAN,
Feb. 26th, 1896.

5. The *Hitavadi* of the 28th February says that theft and dacoity have become very prevalent in Calcutta. For a long time a panic like that which now exists in Calcutta has not been known. It arose from a gang or two of Peshwari badmashes entering into some houses in Colootolla and Bowbazar, armed for the purpose of theft. The inability of the police to detect them increased the alarm. Taking advantage of this panic, the badmashes of Calcutta began to send letters threatening the residents with visits to their houses, and when, in consequence of these threats, the police began to muster strong in the localities so threatened, they began to commit petty thefts in other quarters. To add to the panic, naughty school-boys began to send threatening letters. It is hard to believe that the police is only indifferent to *badmashism* and is not also aiding it. If the police had been sufficiently watchful, *gundas* could not have become so rampant in Barabazar, Mechuabazar, and Ganratolla. In Calcutta respectable people are often robbed and insulted by *badmashes*. It is not safe to walk along the Harrison Road at night. People obtain no redress by complaining to the police. The following case will show how bold *badmashes* have become. When Babu Harish Chandra Chauduri, a Deputy Magistrate on leave, was going the other day along Amherst Street, a boy caught hold of him by his cloth and cried out "*paharawala, paharawala*, arrest this man: he is running away with my ring." A *paharawala* presently came on the spot, and wanted to take the Babu to the thana. A mediator now came up and advised the Babu to settle the matter by making a payment of Rs. 20. After much entreaty, the Babu

HITAVADI,
Feb. 28th, 1896.

settled the matter at Rs. 15, of which Rs. 5 were pocketed by the *paharamala* and 10 by the mediator. The Babu at once laid an information in the Muchipara thana. The police people did not at first attend to him, but when they heard that he was a Deputy Magistrate and that he would not easily drop the matter, they arrested the offenders. Things like these are being done in the public streets. And this is the way the police is preserving the peace.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
Second fortnight of
Magh, 1302 B. S.

6. The *Tripura Prakash*, for the second fortnight of *Magh*, says that in the Tippera district every Subordinate Judge has, at the end of a week, to render to the Judge an account of the work he has performed in the course of the week, and the most noticeable thing about this statement is that it includes only the appeals which have been heard by the Subordinate Judge. In recording his approbation or censure on this statement, the Judge does not take into consideration the nature and intricacy of the appeals heard, but only their number. This pernicious rule is seriously interfering with a proper administration of justice in this district, because, for fear of incurring the displeasure of their superior officer, the Subordinate Judges make too much hurry to get through their file, without caring to do justice to the parties.

TRIPURA PRAKASH.

7. The same paper is sorry to learn that Mr. Carlyle is going to be transferred from Tippera. Mr. Carlyle's frank and courteous behaviour made him liked by everybody. There is not a man who can say that Mr. Carlyle ever committed unjust *zulm* upon any one. During the last famine he laboured incessantly to relieve the distresses of the poor, and brought down the Divisional Commissioner's displeasure upon himself by asking for a relief grant. His services in the cause of Local Self-Government were equally praiseworthy. But for him the late quarrel in the Local Municipality would have developed into a scandal. He often took counsel of native gentlemen. There was no friction in the District Board in his time. The transfer of such a Magistrate will be a loss to Tippera.

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 25th, 1302 B. S.

8. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 25th February objects to the creation of the proposed Honorary Bench at Dewanganj, in the Mymensingh district, on the following grounds:—

An Honorary Bench at Dewanganj in the Mymensingh district.

- (1) the establishment of a criminal court in the village will stimulate the people's propensity for litigation;
- (2) there is a total want of men in the village who can serve as Magistrates;
- (3) a bench is not wanted by the bulk of the village population;
- (4) the creation of a bench is the idea of only a few designing people, who are often involved in criminal cases and who do not command the confidence of the village. They want to become Magistrates themselves in order to secure power in their hands for their own private ends. The intrigues which are already being carried on in the village for the purpose of securing Magistrateships ought to be a sufficient proof of this.

Three successive Subdivisional Officers of Jamalpur discouraged the idea of a bench. It is only the Divisional Commissioner who, on the occasion of his recent visit to Dewanganj, acceded to the prayer of the leaders of the movement. The Commissioner cannot, however, be said to have been able to acquire in the course of a casual visit, greater experience of the place than was possessed by three successive Subdivisional Officers. Now-a-days Honorary Magistrates have to dispose of nearly the whole of the criminal work within their jurisdictions. Under these circumstances, too great care cannot be exercised in the selection of incumbents for the office. When the paid Deputy Magistrates, who are generally men of education, frequently commit errors in the discharge of their duties, it would be foolish to expect uneducated or ill-educated village people to give satisfaction in the performance of the duties of the office of Honorary Magistrate. The creation of a bench at Dewanganj

will lead to frequent miscarriages of justice, because there is not one man in the village who is at all competent to serve as a Magistrate, everyone of those seeking the Honorary Magistrateships being anxious to secure the office merely from a desire to be vested with power, which would enable him to oppress his fellow-villagers.

9. The *Sahachar* of the 26th February is glad to hear that Government is about to create a few posts of Assistant Sessions Judge, and for the present to fill them from among the ranks of Subordinate Judges. The High Court has recommended Babus Dwarkanath Mitter, Syam Chand Dhar and Jogesh Chandra Mitter for the new posts. But the claims of competent and deserving pleaders and Deputy Magistrates should not also be overlooked in filling these posts.

SANACHAR,
Feb. 26th, 1896.

10. The farewell honour, observes the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 26th February, done to Mr Kennedy by the Murshidabad people on the occasion of his departure from the district is sufficient proof of the kindness, generosity and amiability with which he administered the district. There are few Civilians who treat natives so well and show so much kindness to their subordinates as Mr. Kennedy used to do. It is no exaggeration to say that Mr. Kennedy's kindness and generosity knew no bounds. How many Magistrates are there who, like Mr. Kennedy, send native subordinates to Darjeeling for a change at their own cost? The Berhampore people will never forget the kindness and generosity which their Magistrate showed on the occasion of the funeral ceremony of Hari Krishna Babu. Mr. Kennedy was so courteous that he never failed to return the visits even of native gentlemen. The Murshidabad people are sincerely sorry to bid farewell to such a good and kind-hearted Magistrate. Mr. Kennedy also interested himself in the improvement of the water-supply of the town, and his name will ever remain associated with the Murshidabad water-works when they are completed.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Feb. 26th, 1896.

But if Mr. Kennedy had his virtues as a private individual, he had his faults as a public officer. With the exception of the digging of a few wells, there was no work of public utility undertaken by him during his tenure of office in Murshidabad. He did great harm to the cause of education by stopping the Government aid to the middle schools in his district. His rules regarding the commutation of names in the Collector's office occasioned great public inconvenience, while he caused litigants great hardship and inconvenience by ordering that no copy of a judgment or decree should be given to any but a mukhtar. He did not place the management of the Road Cess Department on a sounder basis, and his kindness and generosity were taken advantage of by many designing persons as well as by his unprincipled subordinates. But Mr. Kennedy's private virtues extenuate his faults as a public officer, and the Murshidabad people will ever remember him with grateful feelings.

Mr. Levinge, the new District Magistrate of Murshidabad, should follow in the footsteps of his predecessor. Nothing is known about him, and no opinion can be therefore pronounced about him. It is to be hoped, however, that he will try his best to do good to the people and entitle himself to their gratitude.

11. The *Hitavadi* of the 28th February finds fault with the High Court's nominations for the proposed Assistant District and Sessions Judgeships, on the following grounds:—

HITAVADI,
Feb. 28th, 1896.

The High Court's nominations for the Assistant District and Sessions Judgeships.

Almost all the Subordinate Judges are equally able men, and it is very hard to decide to which of them the palm should be awarded in this respect. The only safe principle, therefore, on which nominations can be made from among them is clearly that of seniority. The High Court has, however, disregarded this principle in making its nominations for the new class of Judgeships.

The reason which, we hear, has influenced the High Court in nominating comparatively junior men in preference to officers of longer standing, is that Government will have soon to appoint District and Sessions Judges from among the Subordinate Judges; that it is right that those who will be now appointed as Assistant District and Sessions Judges should be made District and Sessions Judges, and that it is therefore necessary to nominate comparatively junior officers rather than those at the top of the service, who are all old and will soon retire.

But there is little force in this argument. In the first place, the High Court had no right to presuppose any intention on the part of Government, unless the latter instructed it to have such intention in view in making its nominations. In the second place, to assume that an officer cannot be fit to discharge the duties of a District and Sessions Judge, without previous training in that work, is simply to beg the question. Government itself attaches little importance to this consideration; for it appoints raw, young and inexperienced Joint-Magistrates and even Civilians with little experience of any but clerical work as District and Sessions Judges. What experience, again, had Babu Brajendra Nath Seal of the work of a District or Sessions Judge when he was first appointed as such? And is he not, nevertheless, doing his work satisfactorily? If this argument is good for anything, it is equally fatal to the appointment of Subordinate Judges as Assistant District and Sessions Judges; for will not those Assistant District and Sessions Judges have to perform all the duties of full-fledged District and Sessions Judges? To say that these Assistant Judges will perform only a part of the duties of District and Sessions Judges, is to weaken considerably the force of the argument about previous training. For how should Assistant District and Sessions Judges perform that part of a District and Sessions Judge's duties in which they have had no previous training? The fact is, the Subordinate Judges are able and experienced officers, accustomed to judicial work, and the argument about want of previous training has no force in regard to them. It is the most experienced Subordinate Judges who will work most satisfactorily. It is, therefore, fitting that in the interests of justice as well as of the public service the Subordinate Judges at the top of the service should be nominated as Assistant District and Sessions Judges.

But even on its own principle, the High Court's nominations are not free from objection. Babu Girish Chandra Chaudhuri, Babu Kedarnath Majumdar, Babu Nafarchandra Bhattacharyya, and Babu Kaliprasanna Mukharji, in the first grade of Subordinate Judges, have still some years of service before them, and no one can urge anything against them. Why have their claims been overlooked? Babus Balaram Mallik and Radhakrishna Sen, in the second grade, are younger than the High Court's nominee, Jogesh Babu, and their reputation in the service also is not perhaps less than that of the latter. Babu Amirtalal Pal, too, has still two years of service to complete. Babus Rajendra Kumar Basu and Girish Chandra Chatterji are younger than the High Court's nominee, Shamchand Babu, and both of them have greater reputation in the service. Babus Abinash Chandra Mitra, Jagatdurlabh Majumdar, Sarodaprasad Chatterji, and Ramgopal Chaki will also serve for some years to come. Why have the claims of all these officers been overlooked? It is hoped that Sir Alexander Mackenzie will not blindly accept the High Court's nominations. There is yet time to remedy the injustice.

HITAVADI.
Feb. 28th, 1896.

12. The same paper replies as follows to a defence of Babu Dwarakanath Mitra against the charges published against him in this paper (see R. N. P. of 15th February 1896, paragraph 11), which has been written by a pleader of the Alipore Court:—

A defence of Babu Dwarakanath Mitra, Subordinate Judge, Alipore.

Our correspondent need not have been so anxious to assure us that he was not writing in defence of Babu Dwarakanath for any favour that officer may have shown him, for we made no such insinuation. Our correspondent says that such is Dwaraka Babu's sense of justice that when four pleaders, including his own brother, were recommended to him for a valuable commission to Bijni, he gave the commission to our correspondent instead of giving it to his brother. This was very proper. But we said nothing about this. Nor did we enquire whether it was a fear of the black fever that deterred him from sending his brother to Bijni. But may we ask how it was that among three pleaders preference was given to our correspondent? Is it not a fact that a relative of Dwaraka Babu, Babu Kalinath Mitra, was also appointed a Commissioner in the Bijni case? Should not Babu Dwarakanath have excluded this relative too from the Commission out of a feeling of delicacy? If Dwaraka Babu keeps no connection with his relatives, how does he countenance the fact that since his posting to Alipore, his brother, a junior pleader, is being engaged on one side or the other in almost every case in his court? As a junior pleader the Babu's brother has generally nothing to do for his clients but note down depositions,

&c. How is it that people are so anxious to get this writing work done by him in his brother's court?

13. The same paper is at a loss to understand how a raw officer like Mr. Fisher, of Alipore notoriety, has been appointed District Magistrate of Burdwan under Sir Alexander Mackenzie. It is hoped that Sir Alexander will give the matter his careful consideration.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 28th, 1896.

Appointment of Mr. Fisher as a District Magistrate.

14. The same paper had hoped that Mr. P. L. Roy would be confirmed in his officiating appointment as Legal Remembrancer, and is sorry to hear that Mr. Pratt will be made permanent Legal Remembrancer. There is nothing to urge against Mr. Roy except his skin.

HITAVADI.

Mr. P. L. Roy and the Legal Remembrancership.

15. The same paper says that Mr. George Young, who was charged before the Joint-Magistrate of Alipore with having caused the death of Lakshan Uriya by a kick, has been released. The medical opinion was that Lakshan met his death from suffocation while eating. The writer will not presume to question or criticise the medical verdict. But when a coolie in the Matiaburuj Jute Mill said before the police that Mr. Young had administered to Lakshan slaps and kicks, and that Lakshan died on the following day in his lodgings, we had our suspicions about the cause of the man's death, and those suspicions increased when we learnt, by sending a man to the above witness, that other coolies besides him had seen the *Sahib* beat Lakshan. But there is that medical opinion in Mr. Young's favour, and he can therefore reckon himself perfectly safe. The only thing that is wanting to make this case a typical example of justice, is that Mr. Young should now prosecute the police and the witnesses who gave evidence against him for perjury.

HITAVADI.

Mr. Young's case.

16. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 1st March approves of Mr. Faulder's action in dismissing Babu Dinabandhu Basak, the clerk in the Dacca Magistrate's office, who used to grant licenses for fire-arms. Complaints were long heard against the clerk, but they were not noticed so long as they came only from Hindus and Musalmans. The occasion for his dismissal was a complaint by some Christians. There are two or three more clerks in the Magistrate's office and in the Collectorate, whose punishment has become necessary, because still more serious charges are heard against them than were brought against Babu Dinabandhu. Proof of their guilt can be easily obtained.

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 1st, 1896.

The clerks in the Dacca Magistrate's office.

17. The same paper complains that though ravages by wild beasts are as rife as ever, only 11,290 passes for keeping fire-arms were issued in 1894 in the Dacca district, which contains a population of 9,841,127 men, thus giving an average of one pass to every 871 heads. Of these passes, again, the largest number—nearly 5,000—were obtained by Christians, numbering 400 Europeans, 289 Eurasians, and 18,196 native Christians. The number of passes issued in 1895 was still smaller. Though passes are granted more freely to Christians than to heathens, more wild beasts are killed by the latter with clubs than by the former with fire-arms.

DACCA PRAKASH.

The proposed removal of a munsifi in the Dacca district.

18. The same paper does not approve of the proposal to remove the Kaliganj Munsifi in the Dacca district to the Sadar.

DACCA PRAKASH.

19. The same paper says that Government will do injustice by not appointing Babu Ram Gopal Chaki, Subordinate Judge of Dacca, to one of the Assistant Sessions Judgeships. Ram Gopal Babu is one of the most competent and deserving officers in the Subordinate Judicial Service, and is far superior in point of merit to Babu Jogesh Chandra Mitra, who has been recommended for one of these posts. When Jogesh Babu was in Dacca, many people used to get their suits transferred from his file to that of Ram Gopal Babu.

DACCA PRAKASH.

The Assistant Sessions Judgeships.

(d)—Education.

20. The *Sahachar* of the 26th February writes as follows on the Griffiths affair:—

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 26th, 1896.

The Griffiths affair.

It is difficult to arrive at a right conclusion in the matter without seeing all the papers connected with it. But the fact of a

respectable gentleman's son being ill-treated by durwans is one that cannot be lightly passed over. The boy is a pupil of Mr. Griffiths', and why did not Mr. Griffiths take it upon himself, like a father, to punish the boy, instead of allowing him to be violently handled by his durwans? The writer remembers that once during the incumbency of the late Mr. Atkinson, as Director of Public Instruction, the police wanted to arrest a certain school-boy in Calcutta for some offence, but Mr. Atkinson wrote to the Commissioner of Police saying that the police had no jurisdiction within his department, and that if the boy was actually guilty he would punish him himself.

It is a matter of regret that such bold but affectionate words did not issue from Sir Alfred Croft's mouth in connection with the present case. Mr. Griffiths' decision in regard to the boy is to be regretted: it is clear that he did not make a proper enquiry into the complaint. But what has been done is done; and it is to be hoped that the clever Vice-Chancellor will devise some means of conciliating both parties, and thereby preventing further fuss about the matter.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 26th, 1896.

21. The same paper requests Sir Alfred Croft to appoint an additional Deputy Inspector of Schools for the Dacca district, where, as in the Burdwan district, there are too many middle schools to be properly inspected by one officer.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 27th, 1896.

22. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 27th February has the following:—

The 7th of March.

The 7th of March is an auspicious day according to the Hindu almanac. Sir Alfred Croft has resolved to demolish the Syndicate, specially its Bengali members on that day. Sir Alfred is a hero. In fact, the name Alfred has always been associated with courage and heroism. Everybody knows how King Alfred of England vanquished the Danes and saved his kingdom from their predatory incursions. Sir Alfred, the ruler of the Calcutta University, has made up his mind to save his dominion by defeating and driving out the Bengali members of the Syndicate, and, if necessary, of the Senate also. The day chosen by him is auspicious, and Sir Alfred's efforts are sure to be crowned with success.

Meanwhile, in Ranimudi Gully victory has been proclaimed before the war. It has been proposed to drive the Bengalis out of the University and make Englishmen and Scotchmen its absolute and undisputed masters. The *Indian Daily News* evidently means to place Lord Elgin on the seat of King John, extort from him a second *Magna Charta*, and thereby make the European members of the Senate—the Barons of the University, let us say—undisputed masters of the situation. There is great resemblance between Runnymede and Ranimudi. The little difference in the spelling is due to a defect in pronunciation.

Mr. Griffiths, Principal of the Presidency College and Registrar of the Calcutta University, is the favourite minister of its ruler, Sir Alfred Croft. The peons are the Registrar's followers. Why should they at all care for a Bengali? If Ananda Mohun had been an Alfred or an Ashton, his son could have expected an honourable treatment, and would have certainly received it. But he is a Bengali, and though a Bengali, he had the audacity to draw the Registrar's attention to the conduct of the peons. Could insolence go further? But Bengali insolence did not end there. The Syndicate, consisting mostly of Bengali members, had the hardihood to censure the Registrar's conduct. If a solitary European joined the Bengalis, he is to be pitied, he is to be cursed. He is unworthy of the race to which he belongs. But the 7th of March is drawing near. The month of March is ominous. It was on the Ides of March that Julius Caesar was assassinated by Brutus. The Sepoy Mutiny assumed serious proportions in March. The great Russo-Turkish war was at its height in that month, and it was in that month also that the Japano-Chinese war rose to its climax. March is also the season of cholera and small-pox. The 7th of March is coming, and who can say that there is not danger in store for the Calcutta University?

This thought—this anxious thought—is tormenting many Bengali senators—many Bengali Cæsars of the University, that is to say. They think that it will be a great calamity if the Bengalis are driven out of the Senate. Heaven's gate

will be locked against the Hindus, and their forefathers will get no *pindas*. Life will prove a burden to many educated Babus if they lose their seats in the Senate. Without a gown and without a seat in the senate, life cannot be worth living. Calamity indeed! But take heart, and fear not. It is impossible to drive the Bengalis out of the Senate. The principle of representation once recognised cannot be ignored. It is now the policy of the Government to give every institution a varnish, a thin coating of representation. There is election in municipalities and District Boards, there is election in the University, there is election in the Legislative Councils. This system of election is not soon going to be abandoned.

The Registrar's victory, however, is certain. All the European members will take his side, and some of the Bengali members, too, have made up their minds to take up arms in his defence. It makes one shudder to think of the scenes which will be enacted on the 7th of March in the Senate Hall. Sir Alfred Croft will spare none, no Bengali members except those who will desert to his side. And who is there that can expect to remain unharmed by the shafts of Sir Alfred's ridicule and by his cutting sarcasm?

23. The *Sanjivani* of the 29th February has the following:—

SANJIVANI
Feb. 29th, 1896.

The Griffiths affair.

Has Sir Alfred Croft lost his head over the Griffiths affair? In the statement of the case he has submitted to the members of the Senate for consideration, he observes that as the boy did not leave the hall even when ordered by Mr. Griffiths to do so, the latter had no alternative but to forcibly expel him, and that Mr. Griffiths is not therefore to blame in the matter. Witnesses on the side of Mr. Griffiths, however, say that the boy was leaving the hall of his own accord when he was roughly handled by Mr. Griffiths and the peons and forcibly turned out of it. This being the case, Mr. Griffiths is clearly to blame, and it is a pity that Sir Alfred Croft does not understand this simple fact.

Sir Alfred Croft further states that the majority of the members of the Syndicate having refused to accept the resignation of the Registrar, and the latter being still unwilling to work so long as the vote of censure passed on him is not withdrawn, the business of the University is at a standstill and the Senate should find a way out of this difficulty. The fact, however, is that the business of the University has been brought to a stand-still simply owing to the conduct of Sir Alfred Croft. At the meeting of the Syndicate at which the Vice-Chancellor submitted the Registrar's letter of resignation, four members were for accepting the resignation, while four others, including Sir Alfred Croft, who, as the Vice-Chancellor, occupied the chair, were against accepting it. The members being equally divided, the President gave his casting vote on the side of those who refused to accept the Registrar's resignation. If, therefore, there has been a dead lock in the University business, it is simply the work of Sir Alfred Croft himself. Mr. Griffiths might again submit his letter of resignation to the Syndicate, in which case it would be sure to be accepted. But the fact is that this so-called dead lock is a hollow excuse put forth by Sir Alfred Croft with a view to humiliate the Syndicate at a meeting of the Senate, and he seems to be quite confident that his subordinates in the Education Department, who have seats in the Senate, will cast their conscience overboard and take his side.

Mr. Griffiths has told the Vice-Chancellor that at the meeting of the Syndicate at which a vote of censure was passed on him, Mr. Ananda Mohun Bose got very much excited and left the meeting after characterising the Registrar's conduct as "abominable." Three members of the Syndicate, who were present at the meeting, contradict Mr. Griffiths' statement. No one can be blamed if after this he is led to question the veracity of the other statements made by Mr. Griffiths.

The Registrar further states that he had to forcibly expel the boy with the help of the peons. Two witnesses on his side, one of whom is a European, give a lie direct to this statement, and say that they had seen the boy going out of the hall of his own accord. Will you believe Mr. Griffiths or his witnesses?

The committee appointed by the Syndicate to inquire into the action of the peons has begun its work. We, however, are sorry to hear that the Assistant Registrar has held out threats to the witnesses against the peons. The Assistant Registrar should take care. He ought to know that even the

threats which he may have held out in joke will be sure to stand in the way of justice being done in the case.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 1st, 1896.

24. Sir Alfred Croft's support, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 1st March, has increased Mr. Griffiths' obstinacy and insolence. Unbounded sympathy is

The Griffiths affair.

at the root of all this. But Sir Alfred Croft's sympathy with Mr. Griffiths is natural. Sir Alfred is the head of the Education Department, Mr. Griffiths is a high educational officer. Sir Alfred is the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, Mr. Griffiths is its Registrar. Both Sir Alfred and Mr. Griffiths are Englishmen. There is thus a three-sided sympathy felt by Sir Alfred for Mr. Griffiths.

As for Sir Alfred himself, he serves in a double capacity, he fulfils a double function. Just as the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces is also the Chief Commissioner of Oudh, just as the Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, is also the Minister for Foreign Affairs, just as the Governor-General of India is also the Foreign Member in the Viceregal Council, just as the Commissioner of the Orissa Division is also the Superintendent of the Feudatory States of Orissa, or just as the Emperor of Germany is also the King of Prussia, so is Sir Alfred Croft, the Director of Public Instruction, also the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University. Sir Alfred's power, therefore, is unbounded. He has a large number of followers. All the subordinate educational officers, who are also Fellows of the Calcutta University, are on his side. They are ready to carry out his behests. They have always taken the side of the Director of Public Instruction on similar occasions, and they are naturally expected to take his side on this occasion too.

This is the reason why the writer objected to the Director of Public Instruction being appointed to the Vice-Chancellorship of the Calcutta University. Those who could not then understand why the objection was made will now be able to understand it.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 2nd, 1896.

25. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 2nd March has the following:—

The Griffiths affair.

We have said over and over again that what the Senate should have done in the matter was to consider whether Mr. Griffiths' conduct was such as one should expect from a man of his position. The Registrar of the Calcutta University is, as a matter of fact, a patron of the students. In his official capacity he every year comes into contact with some ten or twelve thousand boys and young men, everyone of whom he ought to look upon as his own son. The Calcutta University is not a police station, the Registrar is not a Police Inspector, his clerks are not *jamadars*, and his peons are not constables. To use a homely simile, the Registrar is the *karta* of the University. He occupies the same position as *pater familias* does in a Hindu family. The *alumni* of the University expect from him kind and affectionate treatment. It is the Registrar's duty to treat the students, one and all, with kindness and affection. He is paid for doing this duty. And if he cannot or does not like to do it, he only proves his incapacity. Mr. Sutcliffe used to treat students with great kindness. It is a pity that Mr. Griffiths cannot follow his example.

Being insulted and ill-treated by the University peons, Mr. Ananda Mohun Bose's son naturally enough went to the Registrar to lodge a complaint against them. But so little sympathy has Mr. Griffiths with native boys and young men, that he did not even think it worth his while to listen to him. And far from comforting him, he rebuked and chastised him. He had not a kind word to say. He did not even feel disposed to utter a cheering word, or give the injured boy the assurance that his grievances would be redressed. Nay, he added insult to injury and treated the boy with harshness. Like master like servant. The University peons, emboldened by their master's behaviour towards the injured boy, belaboured him outside the hall. Mr. Bose then himself wrote to the Registrar a letter, complaining of the conduct of the peons. From what he had heard of the Registrar's behaviour towards his son, he had not the heart to expect just and impartial treatment from him. This is the reason why, when asking the Registrar to make an inquiry into the conduct of the peons, he felt obliged to add that other action would be taken if Mr. Griffiths failed to take any action himself. This somewhat severe tone of the letter was due to

the Registrar's conduct. He richly deserved it. If he had a generous heart, he would have confessed his error and rectified it. He would have punished the offending peons and consoled Mr. Bose and his insulted son.

But Mr. Griffiths grew enraged. To use a Bengali phrase, he spoiled the road and then frowned at the passers-by for taking him to task for it. To wound Mr. Bose's feelings still more, he wrote him in reply that the peons deserved praise rather than blame, reward rather than punishment. We should have thought that Mr. Griffiths had rewarded the peons from his own pocket, had not his generosity been known to us. It may be that he had it in his contemplation to reward his favourite and faithful peons after he had gained a victory in the Senate in his quarrel with the Syndicate.

We admit that the matter would not have been carried so far had any other boy been in the place of Mr. Bose's son. But there is no gainsaying the fact that not a few students are insulted and ill-treated by the University staff, and that it is through the instrumentality of Mr. Bose that their arbitrary conduct has come to the public notice. The cat is at last out of the bag; and the Registrar and his staff have been found out in their true colours.

The Syndicate did nothing but vindicate its prestige and the prestige of the Senate by censuring the conduct of the Registrar. If any member of the Senate finds fault with the Syndicate, instead of praising it for what it has done, he must expect to be set down as a man devoid of humanity. It should be remembered that insult to Mr. Bose is in this case insult to the whole Bengali nation, that insult to the Syndicate is insult to the Senate. Mr. Griffiths, we repeat, would not have ventured to treat Mr. Bose so shabbily if Mr. Bose had been a European—if he had been an Alfred or an Abbot.

Sir Alfred Croft has not certainly raised himself in the public estimation by supporting Mr. Griffiths in this University affair. He had made up his mind to humble the Syndicate at a meeting of the Senate, and thereby increase his prestige and make the Registrar practically independent of the Syndicate. The *Indian Daily News* has faithfully echoed the Vice-Chancellor's sentiment by calling on the English and Scotch members of the Senate to assert themselves, to establish undisputed sway in the University, and make the Bengali members helpless tools in their hands. It behoves the Bengali members to be a little more cautious, but they should fear nothing—they should not at this time allow themselves to be guided by any other consideration than that of justice. They should remember that the Vice-Chancellor can do them no harm. Even the Viceroy cannot drive out the Bengalis from the Senate.

The *Hindoo Patriot* counsels peace and compromise. We have no objection to either. But we shall be sincerely sorry if matters are not set right in the University, which is at present sadly out of joint.

26. At a meeting of the Syndicate, observes the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 2nd March, held on the 29th February last, the case of Mr. Griffiths was again taken into consideration,

The Griffiths affair.

and it was resolved that what Mr. Griffiths had done was done purely with the object of promoting the welfare of the University. Why did the Syndics fail to discover this truth at the two previous meetings? They say that when their vote of censure on Mr. Griffiths was passed, they had not before them all the papers connected with this case. If so, did the Syndicate act properly by passing a vote of censure at all on a public officer without sufficient and reliable information and simply relying on Mr. Ananda Mohun Bose? The majority of the members of the Syndicate are Bengalis, and it is a shame that there should be such arbitrary and one-sided proceedings wherever there are Bengalis. If it be that the Syndicate yielded to a pressure from outside, they have proved themselves unworthy of the high position they occupy.

SULABH DAINIK,
March 2nd, 1896.

27. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 3rd March understands that it is through the intervention of Sir Alexander Mackenzie that the University squabble has been made up. Mr.

The Griffiths affair.

Ananda Mohun Bose is said to be on friendly terms with Sir Alexander Mackenzie, and the latter has done well in throwing oil on troubled waters. The matter would have been carried too far if the Lieutenant-Governor had not intervened, and the consequences would have been highly unseemly.

SULABH DAINIK,
March 3rd, 1896.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
Second fortnight of
Magh, 1302B.S.

28. The *Tripura Prakash* for the second fortnight of *Magh* says that though there are a Sanitary Inspector and an Overseer in the Comilla Municipality, the streets in that town are never watered, and one can hardly pass them without stopping one's nose against stench proceeding from filthy tanks and the accumulated filth on the wayside. The Sanitary Inspector has been doing his duty properly; for he is generally prompt in reporting anything wrong he comes across. But the Overseer seldom carries out the suggestions of the Inspector, and allows matters to go from bad to worse. The rice gruel nuisance in the street in front of the Prince Medical Hall has been repeatedly reported upon by the Sanitary Inspector, but the overseer has done nothing to remove it. The present Overseer is a most lazy and incompetent man, and ought to be replaced by a more energetic officer. The pay of the post, too, should be reduced to Rs. 40.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Feb. 11th, 1896.

29. The *Kasipur Nivasi* of the 11th February draws the attention of the municipal authorities to the pollution of the water of the Barisal canal. The outbreak of cholera every year in Barisal is due to this pollution of water. It is said that the municipal *mehters* throw night-soil into the canal, and its water is also polluted by the boatmen and other people who live on its banks. Steps should be immediately taken to prevent the contamination of the water of the canal.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 25th, 1896.

30. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 25th February says that the Burdwan Municipality should appoint at least one qualified food-inspector for Burdwan town. The appointment of a food-inspector may, in some measure, help to check the spread of cholera and other epidemics. It has almost become a custom with the Burdwan Municipality to make one man do the work of two or three, and it is most unlikely that it will appoint a food-inspector. But if the Municipality is not willing to appoint a paid food-inspector, can it not appoint an unpaid one? There are many medical practitioners among the Commissioners, and one of them may be entrusted with the work.

ULUBARIA DARPAN,
Feb. 26th, 1896.

31. The *Ulubaria Darpan* of the 26th February complains that there is a great scarcity of water in Ulubaria, in the Howrah district. The tanks have already dried up, and the little water they contain has become poisoned by rank vegetation rotting in it. The district authorities propose to spend about one thousand rupees in improving the water-supply of the locality, and this money could not be better spent than in digging wells in the villages in the subdivision and in repairing or clearing the existing tanks. There are many such tanks to be repaired. One, for instance, a very large one, called the Dulo tank, is situated at a distance of six miles to the north of Ulubaria town. The water of this tank is used by the people of sixteen or seventeen villages. The idea of digging wells on the Cuttack road should be given up, as they will benefit only a few passers-by and not the people at large. The pollution of water of the tanks is due to the rotting of the rank vegetation growing in them and on their sides. Steps should be taken to clear the tanks of this rank vegetation.

VIKRAMPUR,
Feb. 27th, 1896.

32. The *Vikrampur* of the 27th February points out to the Dacca District Board and the Munshiganj Local Board the necessity of opening a few charitable dispensaries in the central and northern parts of Vikrampur, in the Munshiganj subdivision of the Dacca district, where people suffer from diseases all the year round. The establishment of such dispensaries has become necessary, at least, as a justification for the existence of the District and the Local Boards.

VIKRAMPUR.

33. The same paper says that the tube-wells, which have been sunk in Vikrampur in the Munshiganj subdivision of the Dacca district will only serve to throw dust in the eyes of the people, who are loud in their demand for water-supply, and to open out a new source of income to European manufacturers of the materials for such wells. The tube which has been sunk at

Chhatphatia near Taltala gives a supply for two persons only in the course of full half an hour. Such wells may do if one is sunk for every two or three families; and one for every half-a-dozen villages will be a farce.

34. The *Hitavadi* of the 28th February has received numerous letters complaining of scarcity of water. When the suffering is so great in the middle of Falgun, it will become terrible in Chaitra. Government is anxious to put a stop to the ravages of malaria. But it takes no steps to clear foul tanks, which are the great sources of that disease. The District Boards should try to prevent scarcity of water with the help of zamindars and other leading villagers.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 28th, 1896.

35. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of 29th February writes as follows:—
It is not very long since Nibaran Chandra, the tax-daroga of the Santipur Municipality, in the Nadia district, was sent to jail for misappropriating municipal money. And lately the public auditor has reported that he has detected defalcations by municipal tax-collectors extending over a long period of time. A certain officer, so detected, made a loan in order to refund the amount he had misappropriated. Can the municipal authorities of Santipur also say why the municipal peon, who went the other day to deposit money in the Ranaghat treasury, returned without having done so? It is hoped that Government will thoroughly overhaul the Municipal Office at Santipur, and prevent such waste of the poor rate-payers' hard-earned money in future.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 29th, 1896.

36. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 1st March publishes the names of the gentlemen who, in its opinion, ought to be appointed members of the Dacca District Board:—

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 1st, 1896.

- (1) Babu Kaliprasanna Ghosh.
- (2) „ Bijay Chandra Bannerji, zamindar.
- (3) „ Parvati Sankar Rai Chaudhuri, zamindar.
- (4) „ Purna Chandra Bannerji, zamindar.
- (5) „ Dinanath Sen, Inspector of Schools.
- (6) „ Umakisor Rai, Deputy Inspector of Schools.
- (7) „ Akshay Kumar Sen, Road Cess Deputy Collector.
- (8) „ The Inspector of Local Works.
- (9) „ The Civil Surgeon.

Thana Sabha has never been so fortunate as to send a member to the District Board. One member should be appointed from that place. The remaining four memberships will probably go to Europeans and Musalmans.

37. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st March complains that there is great scarcity of water in all the villages in the Bankura district. The Government as well as the local zamindars are quite indifferent in the matter, and the District Board has not funds at its disposal to improve the water-supply of the district. A large portion of the Board's revenue is at present spent in keeping the district roads in repair, and the Board is also compelled by the Government to liberally contribute towards the maintenance of charitable dispensaries. There would have been no need of establishing dispensaries if the money spent in maintaining them had been spent in improving the water-supply. Why the Bankura District Board is made to bear the expenses of the municipal dispensary in Bankura is more than one can understand. The Local Board is digging wells here and there, but these are not enough for the purpose.

BANKURA DARPAN,
March 1st, 1896.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

38. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 25th February complains that the talukdars of Málati, a village in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district, are given to rack-renting their raiyats. The rents of the raiyats have been unlawfully enhanced, and various illegal cesses are extorted from them. The rents and cesses, moreover, instead of being collected in four instalments, are realized in one instalment in the month of Bhadra.

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 25th, 1896.

(g)—Railways and communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
Second fortnight of
Magh, 1302 B.S.

39. Babu Ambika Charan Haldar, a Pleader of Brahmanbaria, writing in the *Tripura Prakash* for the second fortnight of *Magh*, complains that, going to the Akhaura station on the Assam-Bengal Railway on the 8th February last, to take a journey to Kasba, he found that the ticket-sellers were exacting blackmail from every one of the Chandranath pilgrims. They extorted so much as one rupee or eight annas from every batch of twenty or twenty-five pilgrims. The troubles of the pilgrims, however, did not end there. On going to enter the train, each passenger had to pay something to the porter before any carriage would be opened to him. The correspondent had to pay nine pice for himself and two companions. Some fishermen were not allowed to take their fish into the train because they would not pay extra gratification to the Railway employes. On his return to Akhaura the next day, the correspondent learnt that the fish had not even then been carried, and that in consequence, a row was about to take place between the fishermen and the station staff.

The attention of the Traffic Superintendent is called to these complaints.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 28th, 1896.

40. The *Hitavadi* of the 28th February draws the attention of the Agent of the East Indian Railway to the fact that Government's orders about providing station-latrines with screens have not yet been carried out at most stations, and that the supply of water at stations is not adequate. By these wants passengers are often placed in great danger. They led to the following tragic occurrence on the 20th February last, which has been communicated to the writer by a correspondent. The correspondent reports that when the passenger train No. 5 was slowly entering the Sekoabad station, a Marwari youth fell down in attempting to jump down from a first class carriage, and was so terribly mangled that he died the very same day in hospital. This youth was travelling in an intermediate class carriage. But there being no arrangements for answering calls of nature in those carriages, and the train not being timed to stop for the space of half-an-hour in the morning time at any station, the youth was compelled to enter a first class carriage for answering calls of nature, and, in attempting to get down from the carriage, met with death. Will the Railway authorities provide intermediate class carriages with latrines, and see that train No. 4 stops for a sufficient space of time at the Nawadi station, train No. 5 at the Etawa station, and train No. 6 at Naini, Delhi or some other station, which it may reach after day-break. The profits of the Railway will double if intermediate carriages are provided with latrines, and if two such carriages are attached to train Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 instead of one.

(h)—General.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
Second fortnight of
Magh, 1302 B.S.

41. The *Tripura Prakash* for the second fortnight of *Magh* writes as follows on the proposed transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam—

The proposed transfer of the Chittagong Division. Government decided to transfer the Chittagong district to Assam so long ago as 1892, without letting its residents, whose interests were most intimately bound up with the question, and whose political welfare very largely depended upon the way it was decided, anything about its decision. The people of Chittagong were struck when they were fast asleep, Government having all along observed the profoundest secrecy about its intention. Sir Charles Elliott was certainly in the secret, but he gave no explicit answer to the questions put by Maulvi Seraj-ul-Islam in the Bengal Council. The sudden visit of the Chief Commissioner of Assam to Chittagong via Comilla was the first incident which aroused dark suspicions in the mind of the Chittagong people, who were otherwise innocent of all knowledge of the Government's intention to cast them, while asleep, into the jungles of Assam.

Government has since promised to listen attentively to the representations of the people of the Division. They have accordingly submitted representations, which, though full of feeling, are based upon facts. The agitation, which has been commenced, may have its origin in the towns; but it has spread like wild fire through the country, and though started by the educated community, has

found a response in every heart in the Division. Besides a protest meeting in Kalikacha, recently announced in this paper, there have been similar meetings in Noagaon, Sarail and Chunta; of which the first two are villages inhabited not by enlightened and educated men, but by illiterate Musalmans. This shows that everybody has realised that transfer to Assam will be the political death of the Division, and Government cannot therefore deny that the great mass of the people are at the bottom of the agitation; and that the agitation is the result of the discontent not of any particular community, but of every community, high and low, in the Division. The Maharaja of Tippera is now silent, but he should remember that Assam is the non-regulation administration under which a terrible fate befell Manipur. His is a most mismanaged estate, and though officials like Messrs. Carlyle and Oldham may refrain from pushing matters to a crisis, such leniency and forbearance cannot be expected from the despotic officers of a non-regulation province. The Maharaja ought, therefore, to move in the matter in time, and one word from him will carry greater weight with the Government than a thousand representations by the people. The *Amrita Bazar Paritka* is rendering yeoman's service to the Chittagong people, and it is hoped that it will not desist till the proposal is withdrawn.

42. The *Charu Mihir* of the 25th February says that the people of Bengal thank the Lieutenant-Governor for the kind consideration he has shown to them by revising the rules which were laid down by his predecessor for the purpose of regulating tours by officials.

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 25th, 1896.

43. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 26th February says that the people of Bengal will ever remain grateful to Sir Alexander Mackenzie for his recent tour resolution. The resolution gives proof of his large-heartedness. He has done invaluable good to the people of Bengal.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Feb. 26th, 1896.

44. The *Sahachar* of the 26th February writes as follows:—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie and the tour resolution. Under the uniformly rigorous rule of Sir Charles Elliott, Bengal was broken, as it were, on the wheel, and its very back-bone was broken. Sir Charles was certainly a learned man; but, unfortunately, he had not the gift which makes a man a popular ruler. He knew how to destroy, but did not possess the constructive power which makes a first class artist. He was therefore quite unfit to direct the administration of a province like Bengal. Though, as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, he made his hand felt in every department of the administration, he was hardly successful in any. He came to Bengal with a pack of prejudices in his mind, and his prejudices led him to trample upon public opinion. He believed that there was as yet no such opinion in the country, and even the representations of public bodies, like the British Indian Association, had no weight with him. According to him, efficient administration was synonymous with rigorous administration. And following this idea he often showed indulgence to police officers and high-handed young civilians, and did his best to screen their faults. This was the reason why he failed to secure the sympathy of his subjects. At the time of leaving the country, however, he must have realised the strength of native public opinion. The honour paid to him by the pandits or the Muhammadan community, or by any other community for its own selfish purposes, cannot be said to have been honour done by the country. The statue erected to the memory of Sir Stuart Bayley is an honour done to that ruler by the country; but, alas, in the case of Sir Charles Elliott, the people of the province did not as a body come forward to honour him even with a farewell address. Sir Charles made the country unhappy by his rule, and posterity will not think very highly of his administration.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 26th, 1896.

Fortunately for Bengal, Sir Charles Elliott has been succeeded by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, who, within the two months that he has been on the Bengal *musnud*, has, by his acts and utterances, assured the people that they may hope for better days under him. Indeed, Sir Alexander's praise is already in every body's mouth; and we can assure him that, though Bengal has been greatly changed since he served here as a junior officer, he will find little to regret in the change, and a competent and upright ruler like him will find

the work of administration easier and smoother here than he found it anywhere else. Sir Alexander's ability, uprightness and insight into the human character have been clearly proved by the few acts he has already done, and by the words he has already uttered. His advice to the Musalmans is one that could come only from a just and impartial ruler like him. We can assure His Honour that the Muhammadan community cannot be dissatisfied with him for what he told them so plainly. His Honour is a learned man, and it was quite like himself to say that nothing but merit and ability would be recognised and rewarded near him. He knows the province and its people thoroughly, and has acted like a true friend of the people by speaking out so plainly at a bad time like this.

The Tour Resolution is the first resolution issued by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, and it gives the people of Bengal a foretaste of the happiness they are destined to enjoy under him. He has ordered the Magistrates to go out on tour only once or twice a year, and to pitch their tents in places which would cause the minimum of inconvenience to parties, and their pleaders and witnesses.

There is one advice given to touring officers for which the Lieutenant-Governor cannot be too highly praised. People formerly looked upon their Magistrate as their father, and felt no fear or hesitation in opening their hearts to him. The Magistrate, on his part, reciprocated their feeling, and freely mixed with them and joined in their festivities and amusements. He regarded some as his friends and others as his children. But, alas, it is not so now! Themselves subjected to rigorous rules, the District Officers now-a-days think that they serve their master best by frowning upon the people and ruling them with rods of iron. This is a grave mistake. Nothing conduces more to the happiness and welfare of a State than a system of administration which aims at securing for the rulers the love and respect of the subject-people. History bears this out. Knowing the people thoroughly as he does, the Lieutenant-Governor has laid special stress upon a touring official's making the acquaintance of the chief residents of the places he will visit. It is advice that can be given only by a farsighted and experienced ruler. The people of Bengal have always been reputed for their loyalty. Indeed, no people in India know better than the Bengalis how to show loyalty to their ruler. Mufassal officials have only to mix as freely with them as they did before, and the old feeling of love and friendship between the ruler and the ruled will be restored.

The way in which Sir Alexander Mackenzie has inaugurated his rule has filled the country with the assurance that during his time all the bad rules which Sir Charles Elliott made will be discarded one after another, and all subordinate officers will learn how to do their work properly.

VIKRAMPUR,
Feb. 27th, 1896.

45. The *Vikrampur* of the 27th February says that on the 24th December last one Hridaya Barai remitted Rs. 800 by telegraphic money-order from the Jainshar post-office,

in the Dacca district, to an officer of his at Goalpara. The payee received half the amount in due course, but the other half was paid him only on the 7th February last. An enquiry ought to be held into the matter.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Feb. 27th, 1896.

46. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 27th February has the following:—

Appointment of natives to high posts.

We praised Sir Charles Elliott because he appointed educated natives to some of the posts which had before him been reserved for Anglo-Indians. But Sir Charles' commendable policy in this respect being distasteful to the official class, is about to vanish with him. It is unbearable to the Anglo-Indian official that a black native, in his capacity of Inspector-General of Registration, shall lord it over so many European Magistrates. It has therefore been decided that after Delwar Hossein Ahmad, the office of the Inspector-General of Registration will be amalgamated with that of the Director of Land Records, and that a European shall be appointed to fill the amalgamated office.

In Sir Charles' time it was decided that educated natives of proved fidelity should be appointed to certain posts of trust and responsibility, such as those of Under-Secretaries to Government. But as soon as Sir Charles' back is turned, the proposal is shelved, and natives should no longer expect to be trusted with posts of responsibility.

The objection to the appointment of natives as Under-Secretaries seems to arise from Government's unwillingness to let them into official secrets.

47. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 28th February reports a case of income-tax oppression in Kantia, a village near Naihati in the 24-Parganas district. One Babu

SAMAY,
Feb. 28th, 1896.

Income-tax oppression.

Nibaran Chandra Biswas, an inhabitant of the said village, is a clerk in a Railway office, drawing a pay of Rs. 30 a month. His father had some trade, and during his lifetime income-tax used to be levied on the joint income of the father and the son. The father had several times applied to the authorities for the reduction of the tax paid by him, but with no effect. After his death, the son several times applied to the authorities, praying to be exempted from taxation. But his prayer was not heard, and he was compelled to pay the tax notwithstanding the fact that his small income was not taxable under the law, and the income of his father had ceased to exist with him. Nibaran Babu lately sent an application to the authorities in a registered cover, and was under the impression that this time his prayer would be heard and he would be exempted from the tax. But when the time for making the payment came, the Income-tax Collector paid his house a visit, and in his absence attached some of his moveable property on the ground that he had defaulted in paying the income-tax in due time.

The Editor remarks that there is actually no remedy against income-tax oppression. It is the interest of the Government to increase its revenue. An Income-tax Collector is sure to reduce the revenue from this source, if he is to conscientiously levy the tax. Instances are not rare where Income-tax Collectors have incurred the displeasure of the authorities by conscientiously collecting the tax, and thereby reducing the income-tax revenue. Income-tax Collectors are therefore compelled to be unfair and exacting in their collections. The income-tax is never levied strictly according to the law. If it had been, there would have been no objection against it. None should feel much hardship in paying even 5 *per cent.* of his net income to the Government. But a man is, as a matter of fact, often compelled to pay 20 *per cent.* of his income as income-tax. Income-tax oppression is generally experienced by natives, and not by Europeans. But there seems to be absolutely no remedy. Complaints by natives are of no avail.

48. Unlike his predecessor, observes the *Pratihar* of the 28th February,

PRATIHAR,
Feb. 28th, 1896.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie's
Tour Resolution.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie has no undue partiality for touring. His Tour Resolution will be hailed with satisfaction, not only by the officials, but also by the people. Tours do the mufassal people no good, but are on the contrary a source of hardship to them, as they are compelled to supply *rassad* to the touring officials.

49. The *Hitwadi* of the 28th February says that any good that is done by official tours is more than counterbalanced by the sufferings which they entail upon litigants and their witnesses who have to follow the Magistrates from place to place. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has now directed that touring should not interfere seriously with the regular work at the head-quarters. It is to be hoped that this order will promote the convenience of the public. This very opinion was expressed by the Deputy Magistrate, Babu Nabin Chandra Sen, the other day, on this tour question. But inconvenience to litigants is not the only evil arising from official tours. Such tours are also attended with great oppression on the poor. From considerations of prestige, Government does not listen to complaints regarding such oppression. It did not, for instance, attend to the complaints on that head which were made by the Reverend Mr. Cornelius of Jamtara, and by this paper. Is it too much to expect that Sir Alexander, who has now rid the country of one evil of touring, should take steps to remedy its other evil too? Sir Alexander's Tour Resolution has reassured the writer. He will be satisfied if the officers only act justly under Sir Alexander's regime.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 28th, 1896.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie's
Tour Resolution.

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50. The same paper hoped that the able article published in the *Indian Mirror* of the 11th October 1895 would make the Bengal Government attend to Mr. Westmacott's dealings with the Sub-Deputy Collectors of his

HITAVADI.

Mr. Westmacott and the Sub-
Deputy Collectors of his Division.

Division. But no; Mr. Westmacott's despotism is increasing under indulgence. It is therefore necessary to say a few unpleasant words. It is hoped that Sir Alexander Mackenzie and the Board of Revenue will relieve the Sub-Deputy Collectors of the Presidency Division of the oppression which Mr. Westmacott is committing upon them against their orders. A perusal of paragraphs 5 and 6 of the resolution of the Government of Bengal, in the Appointment Department, No. 3111, dated the 4th July 1892, will show that with time the work of Sub-Deputy Collectors has changed in Bengal. In that resolution Sir Charles Elliott has clearly expressed the opinion that there is now little difference in point of merit between Deputy-Collectors and Sub-Deputy Collectors, and that both classes of officers should therefore be employed to do the same work. The above resolution of Government has not been superseded by any later resolution. Till lately, Sub-Deputy Collectors and Kanungos were employed to perform the duties prescribed for them in Chapter X of the Revenue Officers' Manual of 1888. That chapter has been superseded by the Board's circular of the 4th January 1895. Clause 4 of Part A of the above circular, is to the following effect:—

"4. The Sub-Deputy Collectors are ordinarily vested with criminal powers, and their duties, whether magisterial, executive or revenue, are similar in kind, though lower in degree, to those ordinarily entrusted to Deputy-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors."

But in what way, in the face of this clear direction of the Board of Revenue, Mr. Westmacott keeps the Sub-Deputy Collectors under him employed, will be seen from the following defiant declaration of his in his annual administration report:—

"Paragraph 143. * * * The Sub-Deputy Collectors and Kanungos were employed, as usual, on measurement, settlement, collection of rents from khas mahals and other miscellaneous and out-door duties; but as they greatly prefer sedentary work in offices, and it requires constant goading and supervision to keep them on tour, the Sub-Deputy Collectors at some of the sub-divisions were employed in criminal judicial work, which I think interferes unduly with their revenue work."

In other Divisions the instructions of Government as to the work in which Sub-Deputy Collectors and Kanungos are to be employed, are being given effect to. It is not certainly the intention of Government that those officers should be goaded into doing work which Government did not intend them to do. It is, therefore, certain that Sir Alexander Mackenzie will never tolerate this action of Mr. Westmacott.

51. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 1st March writes as follows:—

The Tour Resolution.

Many Lieutenant-Governors have come and gone. Some of them came in with good names, but carried none with them. Fearing that it might fall to our lot to express two opinions about the same ruler, we had so long refrained from saying anything about Sir Alexander Mackenzie. But his acts have made such a favourable impression upon us, that we can no longer desist from noticing them.

There have been Governors who came with a good heart and the best of intentions for the subject-people, but who unfortunately lacked the sense which would have enabled them to judge rightly between measures calculated to do the people good and measures calculated to do them harm. Such Governors did many things which injured the people, though done with the best of intentions. Their failure was due to the fact that foreigners, as they were, they did not consider it necessary to take counsel of the subject-people. The few acts which have been already done by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, however, prove that with good intentions he combines some experience of the country and its people. His tour resolution shows that he has realised the mischievous nature of frequent touring.

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 1st, 1896.

DACCA PRAKASH.

52. The same paper cannot understand with what object Government is again sending Mr. Hare to Dacca, whence he was purposely removed. It is certain that Mr. Luttmann-Johnson will not long remain Commissioner of the Dacca Division after his return from leave. Instead, therefore, of making a temporary arrangement for the period he will be on leave, a

The Commissionership of the
Dacca Division.

permanent appointment should be made. Mr. Skrine, whose appointment to the Chittagong Commissionership is rumoured, would be the fittest man for Dacca. Let Mr. Hare be put in Mr. Skrine's place, and the latter permanently appointed to the Dacca Division, Mr. Luttmann-Johnson going to Chittagong when he comes back.

53. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 2nd March is glad to see Mr. Hare appointed to officiate as the Commissioner of the Dacca Division during Mr. Luttmann-Johnson's absence on leave.

DACCA GAZETTE,
March 2nd, 1896.

Mr. Hare as Commissioner of the Dacca Division.

54. The same paper observes that most of the rules laid down by the Lieutenant-Governor in his Tour Resolution will be of immense benefit to the people, and makes the following suggestions:—

DACCA GAZETTE.

The Lieutenant-Governor's Tour Resolution.

- (1) The peons and constables who follow a touring officer are in the habit of extorting *rassad* from the village people. These extortions should be put a stop to.
- (2) A touring officer has to pass through many villages and towns. To save litigants trouble and expense, it should be laid down that touring officers should hold courts in the towns and villages through which they have to pass for the purpose of trying local cases. There are Magistrates who are in the habit of unnecessarily harassing litigants by making them dance attendance at court from distant places. This practice should be put a stop to.
- (3) There are Magistrates who do not stick to their tour programme, and thereby cause great inconvenience to the public. Such irregularities should be put down.
- (4) There are Sub-divisional Officers who visit the same places over and over again, neglecting other places. This should be forbidden.

In one word, the Government should try its best to see that touring officials spare no pains to acquaint themselves with the true state of affairs in the mufassal. With this view the Government may lay down certain forms which touring officials should follow in keeping a regular diary of their tours; and it should, if necessary, even reward such officers as prove themselves the best touring officers according to the standard laid down by it.

55. The *Som Prakash* of the 2nd March says that its articles on tours published in one of its previous issues drew the attention of Sir Charles Elliott, and he drafted a resolution on the subject. Sir Alexander Mackenzie's Tour Resolution closely follows the lines of that resolution. That this is the case is clear from the very tone of the new Lieutenant-Governor's Resolution. He is entitled to the thanks of the public, but credit is no less due to Sir Charles Elliott. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has only completed what Sir Charles Elliott began. The native papers, which are giving Sir Alexander Mackenzie the monopoly of their praise, are evidently not aware of the fact that his Tour Resolution owes its origin to Sir Charles Elliott.

SOM PRAKASH,
March 2nd, 1896.

The interpellations in the Bengal Council.

56. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 4th March has the following with reference to the last interpellations in the Bengal Council.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 4th, 1896.

During the rule of Sir Charles Elliott it was a custom with his Secretaries to give evasive answers to interpellations about the conduct of officials, made by the non-official members. Even in cases where they could not but give a plain answer, they were in the habit of upholding the conduct of erring officials, and even of supporting them in their wrong-doing. It was Sir Charles Elliott's policy never to rebuke an erring official in public—he had made up his mind never to wash official linen in public. In his opinion official prestige was in danger whenever official measures were unfavourably criticised by the public. This is the reason why during Sir Charles Elliott's rule interpellations in the Council did the people no good. But this state of things has now undergone a change. As was anticipated from his Civil Service Dinner speech, Sir Alexander Mackenzie is

not going to follow in the wake of his predecessor. He has followed the right path, and is trying his best to keep the officials under proper control. From the straightforward answers given by the Lieutenant-Governor's Secretaries to the interpellations made in the last meeting of the Bengal Council, it is quite clear that Sir Alexander Mackenzie has resolved to follow a peaceful and conciliatory policy. Sir Charles Elliott inflicted, so to speak, wounds on the heart of the people. Sir Alexander Mackenzie is now trying his best to heal those wounds.

The writer notices some of the interpellations and the answers given to them. With reference to the answer given to the interpellation about Dr. Bomford's new rules in the Medical College, the writer observes that these rules press hard upon medical students. If there were a rival Medical College in Bengal, these rules would do no harm. The writer cannot, moreover, understand why these restrictions should be placed on the study of medicine when there are no such restrictions on the study of law. With reference to the answer to the interpellation about fishing in tidal rivers and canals, the writer is glad to observe that the Lieutenant-Governor has done away with the restriction imposed on fishing in such waters, but observes that it should be clearly laid down that all people have the right to fish in all tidal canals and in all rivers, tidal or untidal. There are rivers in which there are no tides. The Hooghly, for instance, above Kalna, is not a tidal river. Evidently a good wind has begun to blow in Bengal with Sir Alexander Mackenzie's accession to its *guddi*.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 28th, 1896.

57. The *Hitavadi* of the 28th February says that in reply to Maulvi Siraj-ul-Islam's interpellation in the Bengal Council on the 9th February 1894, relating to the remoured extension of the jurisdiction of the Assam Government, the Bengal Government stated:—"The Government of India had not yet issued any final order on the subject." Again, when in March 1895 the Maulvi made a fresh interpellation on the subject, the Bengal Government said that it had no papers to lay before the Council, and the question would not assume a practical shape till the Assam-Chittagong Railway was completed.

Government's contradictory declarations on the amalgamation question.

But in reply to the interpellation which the Hon'ble Babu Mohini Mohan Roy lately made on the subject in the Viceregal Council, the Government of India stated:—"The Government of India decided in 1892 that the Chittagong District should be transferred to Assam as soon as settlement operations were concluded in it." The statements of the two Governments are conflicting, and the question is which statement is to be believed. Is Government maintaining its prestige by making contradictory statements like the above, and by preventing people by such trick from agitating? It is not difficult to deceive the Indian people? But will people have any faith in Government very long after seeing such conduct on its part? Such conduct may be approved by the crooked policy of the west, but it is clearly abhorrent to all principles of justice. People have been more pained by this lack of sincerity on the part of Government than they will ever be by the amalgamation of Chittagong with Assam.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 29th, 1896.

58. The *Bangavasi* of the 29th February has the following:—

Change in British policy towards the Native States.

Lord Dalhousie extended the British Empire in India by annexing many Native States, in some cases by force, in others artfully. The Board of Directors of the East India Company made no objection to this policy of aggression. Who has ever objected to have new territories added to his dominion without any cost? But the consequence of Dalhousie's policy was disastrous. It led to the Sepoy Mutiny.

The Sepoy Mutiny opened the eyes of the authorities: it made them wise. Lord Canning and the British Ministry of the time understood, though too late, that the aggressive policy of Lord Dalhousie was at the root of the rising. The Sepoy Mutiny was ultimately put down, but it cost the British

Government a good deal of trouble to re-establish peace and order in the country. It is difficult to say what the issue of the conflict would have been if the native chiefs in a body had joined the mutineers and waged war with the British Government. It is almost certain that in that case the British Government would have been rendered entirely helpless, and would have lost the British Empire in India.

Experience taught Lord Canning and the British Ministry wisdom. In order to prevent the possibility of a rising like the Sepoy Mutiny in future, they assured the native chiefs that they would not be disturbed in their possession of their respective territories. The royal proclamation was issued, in which Her Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress solemnly promised never again to interfere with the independence of the native chiefs, or to deprive them of their dominions.

But the royal promise became old in course of time, and lost its force and obligation in the eye of the British officials in India, as peace and order were re-established in the country, and their fear and anxiety were dispelled, and gave place to a growing sense of security. The country was brought under closer subjection to the British Government, and British rule in India was placed on a firmer basis and a securer foundation. The number of British soldiers in the Indian army was increased, and the efficiency of the native soldiers was reduced—they were poorly armed and equipped compared with their European comrades. The artillery were placed almost entirely under European soldiers, the native regiments were more largely officered by Europeans, and to prevent any combination among the native soldiers in a regiment, it was made to consist of men of various castes and religious persuasions. The Indian people were also disarmed.

This increased the sense of security of the British officials, and they began to treat the royal promise with indifference. The native chiefs were brought more and more under the subjection of the Political Agents, and their independence was curtailed. All the native chiefs were practically made puppets in the hands of the Government, and compelled to do its biddings. The harsh aggressive policy of Lord Dalhousie gave place to a milder policy. The Gaekwar of Baroda was tried by a commission and deposed, and a boy of the Government's own choice was placed on his throne. The example of Baroda served as a lesson to the Indian chiefs. It pointed out to them that they were all helpless tools in the hands of the paramount power, and that the latter could deal with them as it pleased. Lord Northbrook deposed the Gaekwar of Baroda, even though the majority of the members of the commission were in his favour, and made it quite patent to his brother chiefs that they depended entirely on the mercy and pleasure of the British Government for their very existence. The same policy was pursued in Cashmere. Maharaja Pratap Sing was deprived of his ruling power and made a puppet in his own dominion. British supremacy was virtually established in Cashmere. The history of British policy in regard to Manipur need not be recounted. In Bhurtpur the Maharaja was deposed without letting the people know anything about the matter. The British Ministry, when questioned, treated the matter lightly, and let the people understand, though not in so many words, that nothing could undo what the Government in India had done. The Khan of Khelat was also deposed, and one of his sons, most inimically disposed towards him, was placed on the throne. In fact, the British Government is virtually ruling all the Native States. The Political Agents are all-powerful there, and the native chiefs are all guided and controlled by men of the Government's choice—by men, that is, who are always ready to faithfully carry out its behests. The case of the Patna chief is an instance in point. The Government says that the Maharaja of Patna killed his wife and committed suicide in a fit of insanity. Evidence, however, goes the other way. It proves that the Maharaja was goaded to desperation—to insanity, if you please—by the high-handedness of the Political Agents. The case of Jhalwar has now come to the forefront. It is well known how the Dewan of the Maharana has now become his master by successfully playing the part of a spy, how the Maharana's servants have turned against him at the command of the Political Agent, and how the Maharana himself has been made a prisoner in his own dominion. His deposition, too, is being talked about.

The Anglo-Indian papers, too, have changed their tone. They no longer deal with questions affecting the Native States with that caution and moderation which marked their writings on this subject some years ago. And they are not to blame, seeing that the British officials have given up their policy of caution and conciliation, and do not hesitate to slight the Queen's proclamation itself. The fact is that the tone of the British policy towards the Native States has undergone a change. The old policy of annexation has been renewed under a new garb.

The confidence of the Indian people in the integrity of the British Government remains, however, still unshaken. They still place implicit reliance on the promise of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress. The Indian chiefs, too, find great consolation in the Queen's proclamation, which still inspires them with hope and confidence. It is the conviction of the Indian people that the sun may rise in the west and the moon may shine in the night of the new moon, but the Queen's promise can never be broken. The new-fangled and misguided policy of the British Government, therefore, gives us serious cause for anxiety, not only for the native chiefs, but also for the British Government. The contentment of the people is the strength of the Government. It should not be thought that the peaceful attitude of the native chiefs is due to their weakness, it is much more due to their unbounded and never-failing confidence in the justice and integrity of British rule. The Indian people virtually worship Her Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress. She is their idol, and they love her as they their kind mother. It is a pity that her representatives should try their best to offend and ill-treat her faithful subjects, her devoted worshippers, her loving children, and thereby shake their confidence in the integrity of her rule. Let the British officials take timely warning and be guided more by conscience than by self-interest. Worldly power lasts only for a day, but righteousness lasts for ever. Human life is but a span, but the life hereafter is eternal.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

AL PUNCH,
Feb. 25th, 1896.

59. *Al Punch* of the 25th February says:—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie's advice to the Musalman community.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie justly said that, if the Musalmans were anxious to take a share of the loaves and fishes of the State, they must depend more upon themselves than upon official favour. But it remains to be seen how His Honour will maintain his impartiality in dealing with a people consisting of two communities, one of which is strong and the other weak. The weak, being outnumbered by the strong, naturally look to Government for protection.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Feb. 24th, 1896.

60. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 24th February draws attention to the

The late pilgrimage to Chandranath.

exactions and inconveniences to which pilgrims were put at the shrine of Chandranath, in Chittagong, on the occasion of the late *Sivaratri* festival, in spite of the Government's order to throw the shrine open to all pilgrims without the levy of any entrance fee which has been declared unlawful by the law courts. The Mahanta ought to be careful in future, or he would himself suffer in his quarrel with pilgrims.

The Railway arrangement, too, for conveying pilgrims to Chandranath was faulty. Five or six special trains were provided, but they proved quite inadequate to cope with the traffic; and in the crush for purchasing tickets which ensued, the ticket sellers at almost every station systematically levied blackmail from the passengers.

The *Tirpura Prakash* newspaper has published particulars about certain pilgrims who were thus blackmailed.

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 25th, 1896.

61. In reference to the registration case in which Nowsher Ali Khan,

A registration case in the Mymensingh district.

Sub-Registrar of Pakulla, in the Tangail sub-division of the Mymensingh district and his wife, wanted to get registered a sale agreement alleged to have been executed in their favour by one Brahmayi Debya of Baghuli, as executrix of the estate of her minor sons, in respect of certain property which had been already sold by her with the permission of the District Judge, the *Charu Mihir* of the 25th February cannot understand why Brahmayi should

agree to sell to Nowsher Ali for only Rs. 3,780 property which she had actually sold for a much larger sum, namely, Rs. 4,760. Even if the document which Nowsher Ali has produced is assumed to be genuine, the fact that the agreement was made without such permission of the District Judge, as was obtained when the other transaction was effected, goes very much against Nowsher Ali. Brahmayi having obtained a certificate of guardianship for the person and property of her minor sons, no transaction for the sale of any property belonging to the minors can be valid, unless effected with the District Court's permission. Besides, Brahmayi herself repudiated the agreement as false, and the way in which Nowsher Ali produced evidence of its execution before the Special Sub-Registrar of Tangail was very suspicious. It is hoped that the authorities will hold an enquiry into the case.

62. The *Englishman*, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 27th February, has gone into hysterics over the Maharaja of Tippera's purchase of a house in Russell Street. That paper is terror-struck to see

The *Englishman* on the Maharaja of Tippera's purchase of a house in Russell Street.

the European quarters of the metropolis thus invaded by the native aristocracy. This was, observes the *Englishman*, exactly the case some time ago in Simla. But there steps were taken to remedy the evil. Were there really any steps taken in Simla to prevent natives from taking up their residence in the European quarters? If so, does the *Englishman* wish to see similar preventive measures taken in Calcutta? The Anglo-Indian paper looks upon the European quarters as the West End of Calcutta. But does it not think even the Maharaja of Tippera a fit man to live in this West End? Many Englishmen will thank their stars if they get service in Tippera under the Maharaja. The writer will not be sorry to see natives and Europeans living apart. If a native ought not to live in the European quarters, the *Englishman* should see that Europeans, on their part, do not live in the native quarters. The European missionaries living in the native quarters should first of all be compelled to remove to the European quarters.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 27th, 1896.

63. The young Maharaja of Mayurbhanj, observes the *Samay* of the 28th February, desires to marry one of the late Babu Kesab Chandra Sen's daughters, and with this view has embraced Brahmoism. The Maharaja's old grandmother, however, is opposed to this marriage, and has telegraphed to the Lieutenant-Governor saying that if His Honour does not prevent the Maharaja from carrying out his intention, her life will be in jeopardy. The writer does not understand what the proposed marriage has to do with the Maharani's life, and how the Lieutenant-Governor can interfere with the Maharaja in a purely domestic affair. The Maharaja, however, ought to reconsider the matter. He should not enter into a matrimonial alliance which is likely to wound the feelings of his old grandmother.

SAMAY,
Feb. 28th, 1896.

64. The *Education Gazette* of the 28th February writes as follows :—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie. The present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is an experienced civilian, and having been long connected with administrative work, has acquired a deep insight into administrative questions. A perfect ruler should do his best to learn the wants and grievances of his subjects, and having learnt them, should remove them. And this is exactly what Sir Alexander Mackenzie has been doing since his accession to power. There is no other secret of the popularity he has gained within so short a time. The sentiments he has hitherto expressed, and the attempts which he has made to remove certain misconceptions from the native mind, all prove him to be an impartial and far-sighted ruler who loves his subjects. His desire to please his subjects has been very clearly evinced in his protest against the Cotton Duties Act, and in his resolution prohibiting the throwing of dead bodies into rivers. His reply to the address of the Howrah Municipality, presented to him on the occasion of the opening of the water-works in that place, evinces the same sympathy with the subject-people in the matter of Local Self-Government. Like Lord Ripon, the father of Local Self-Government in India, Sir Alexander Mackenzie is for trusting to time for the success of the institution, and is against forcing progress and improvement upon the people.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Feb. 28th, 1896.

The writer also approvingly quotes from His Honour's replies to the addresses of the two Muhammadan public bodies, and from the circular he once issued explaining the real object of the Arms Act.

Some time ago the people of Bengal envied the people of the North-Western Provinces their new ruler, but now having themselves got a ruler who, to judge from his utterances, is sure to prove popular, they see no further cause for such jealousy.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Feb. 28th, 1896.

65. In reviewing a book which contains the addresses that were presented some time ago to Pandit Mohesh Chandra Nyayaratna at Bhatpara and Navadwip, and the Pandit's reply thereto, the same paper observes as follows:—

The Pandits' address to the late Lieutenant-Governor.

The propriety of presenting the addresses to the Pandit at the time when the subject of the Pandits' address to the late Lieutenant-Governor was being hotly discussed was questioned by many; but it would not have been so questioned if the addresses had been presented when Pandit Mahesh Chandra Nyayaratna, after retiring from the Government service, first went to Benares. The dignified position of the Pandits in this country requires that they should be thoroughly unbiassed in pronouncing their opinions upon political subjects. If they cannot maintain such a position, it is far better for them to abstain from politics altogether. It ought to be beneath their dignity to evince any party spirit whatever, and to eulogise Government not upon the abstract merit of its acts, but for particular benefits conferred upon any member or members of their own party. The few thousands of rupees which Government annually spends for the encouragement of *tol* education is nothing compared with the large amounts which are annually spent for the maintenance of Christian Missionaries and for the spread of English education. In acknowledgment of this small benefit, the Pandits came forward to praise the Government, though they did not think it necessary or proper to praise Lord Northbrook for the very large amounts he spent in saving the lives of a famine-stricken people, a much nobler and more praiseworthy act.

This seems to be the prevailing opinion regarding the conduct of the Pandits in presenting an address to Sir Charles Elliott.

But, though the Pandits may have erred in presenting an address to the late Lieutenant-Governor, the writer cannot approve of the tone in which they have been abused by the public for their ill-advised act.

BANKURA DARPAN,
March 1st, 1896.

66. Referring to his speech at the Civil Service dinner, to his Resolution on the subject of the contamination of river water, and to his other recent public utterances, the *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st March observes that the Lieutenant-Governor has within the last two or three months occupied a high place in the heart of the people. The different sections of the people declare in one voice that Sir Alexander Mackenzie will prove a beneficent ruler. In the very beginning of his rule he has given proofs of conscientiousness, justice and impartiality.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

SULABH DAINIK,
March 3rd, 1896.

67. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 3rd March understands that Sir Alexander Mackenzie lately granted the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Bannerji an interview and assured him that he would give the people peace. Sir Charles Elliott made matters too hot for the people, and peace is what they want.

The Lieutenant-Governor.

URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPKA,
Feb. 1st, 1896.

68. The *Utkaldipika* of the 1st February says that there is an Assistant Settlement Officer engaged in settlement work in Orissa, who is in the habit of purchasing large numbers of gold mohurs from people residing within his jurisdiction. The writer observes that though there cannot be any objection to such purchase, many have been the complaints against it, and it should therefore engage the attention of the Settlement Officer.

Complaints against an Assistant Settlement Officer.

UTKALDIPKA.

69. The same paper fails to see the utility of the system, which the District Boards of Balasore and Puri have adopted, of appointing peripatetic gymnastic teachers, who are to go round the schools in the districts, halting at each school for some time, and teaching its pupils some manly sports or physical exercise. The writer observes that the majority of the pupils in the mufassal schools are the children either of cultivators or of shop-keepers, who from the very nature of their occupation have to give themselves ample exercise

Appointment of gymnastic teachers in Balasore and Puri.

every day. Besides, they have their indigenous village sports, which they resort to on holidays, which, on account of their nature and popular character, possess great attractions for them. In the writer's opinion the money spent on the maintenance of these teachers might, with great advantage, be utilised in other ways.

70. Referring to the imposition of duties on cotton manufacture in India, the same paper points out that clear injustice has been done to the Indian mills, and that the interests

UTKALDIPKA,
Feb. 1st, 1896.

The Cotton Duties Act. of India have been sacrificed in order to remove the supposed grievances of Manchester and other industrial towns in the United Kingdom.

71. The same paper points out that, before extending the provisions of the Puri Lodging-House Act to Chandbali, in the district of Balasore, care should have been taken to construct a certain number of public latrines or urinals, the want of which is keenly felt by the passengers and pilgrims who visit the port either on business or for pleasure.

UTKAL DIPKA.

ASSAM PAPERS.

72. The *Paridarsak-o-Srihattavasi* for the 1st fortnight of Falgun 1302B.S. says that it will be glad to see Mr. Cotton succeed Mr. Ward in the Chief Commissionership of Assam.

PARIDARSHAK-O-
SRIHATTAVASI,
First fortnight
of Falgun, 1302B.S.

73. The same paper observes that either a first-class Subordinate Judge, like Babu Balaram Mullick or Babu Krishna Chandra Chatterji, should be sent to Sylhet, or an additional lower-grade Subordinate Judge should be appointed, to clear the heavy file of civil suits there. Subordinate Judges, like Balaram and Krishna Babus, are not numerous in the Subordinate Civil Service; and men like them are not likely to stay long in an out-of-the-way place like Sylhet; still if a first class Subordinate Judge like any of them is sent to Sylhet even for a couple of years, the Government will be able to have the file cleared at a less cost than what is likely to be incurred in appointing an additional Subordinate Judge.

PARIDARSHAK-O-
SRIHATTAVASI.

There is one thing more to be taken into consideration. In Assam a Deputy Commissioner has jurisdiction in all cases in which the claim exceeds one thousand rupees. The number of such cases is increasing, thereby increasing the burden on the shoulders of the Deputy Commissioner, who, moreover, not-being well-versed in the civil law, is not likely to do proper justice in such cases. This being the case, the Government can do one of two things. If it thinks that the Deputy Commissioner should continue to try civil cases as heretofore, it should send an able first class Subordinate Judge to Sylhet, or appoint an additional Subordinate Judge. If not, it should appoint an additional first-class Subordinate Judge.

74. The same paper quotes from the letter of one Padma Lochun Chakravarti, published in the *Tripura Prakash*, in which that gentleman complains that on the 10th January last the Station-Master of Sitakunda extorted excess fares from pilgrims returning from Chandranath. The correspondent gives the names of some persons from whom, among others, excess fare was extorted :—

PARIDARSHAK-O-
SRIHATTAVASI.

- (1) Ramsundar Pandit of Dumaira, thana Muradnagar, district Tippera, having 17 persons in his company, had to pay Rs. 20-8 in place of Rs. 19-15-6, which is the proper fare.
- (2) Dinanath Chakravarti of Nawadil, Kusba, Tippera, with 18 persons, had to pay Rs. 20-13 in place of Rs. 20-8-6.
- (3) Jaya Chandra Panda of the same place, with three men, had to pay Rs. 3-9 in place of Rs. 3-2-9.
- (4) Goluk Pal of Nabinpur, Tippera, with eight persons, had to pay Rs. 9-8 in place of Rs. 9-2.
- (5) Uma Churn Chakravarti of Navinagar, with seven persons, had to pay Rs. 8-5 in place of Rs. 7-15-9.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 7th March 1896.

1. The first of these is the fact that the
2. second is the fact that the
3. third is the fact that the
4. fourth is the fact that the
5. fifth is the fact that the
6. sixth is the fact that the
7. seventh is the fact that the
8. eighth is the fact that the
9. ninth is the fact that the
10. tenth is the fact that the